

# The President's Daily Brief

20 November 1973

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exemption category 5B(1), (2), (3)  
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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF**

20 November 1973

**PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS**

Israeli and Egyptian representatives exchanged proposals yesterday regarding disengagement of forces. General Yariv suggested mutual withdrawal from the banks of the canal; his Egyptian counterpart proposed creating a buffer zone east of a line down the middle of the Sinai.

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The Arabs are paying cash for some of the aid Moscow has sent Egypt and Syria since the war began. This is a departure from previous financial arrangements for arms supply; money from oil producing states has made it possible. (Page 2)

French planning for a considerable increase in naval strength in the Mediterranean over the next several years is discussed on Page 3.

Statements of high French officials indicate that France's nuclear doctrine is continuing to evolve from one based on immediate strategic retaliation into one with a number of levels of nuclear response.

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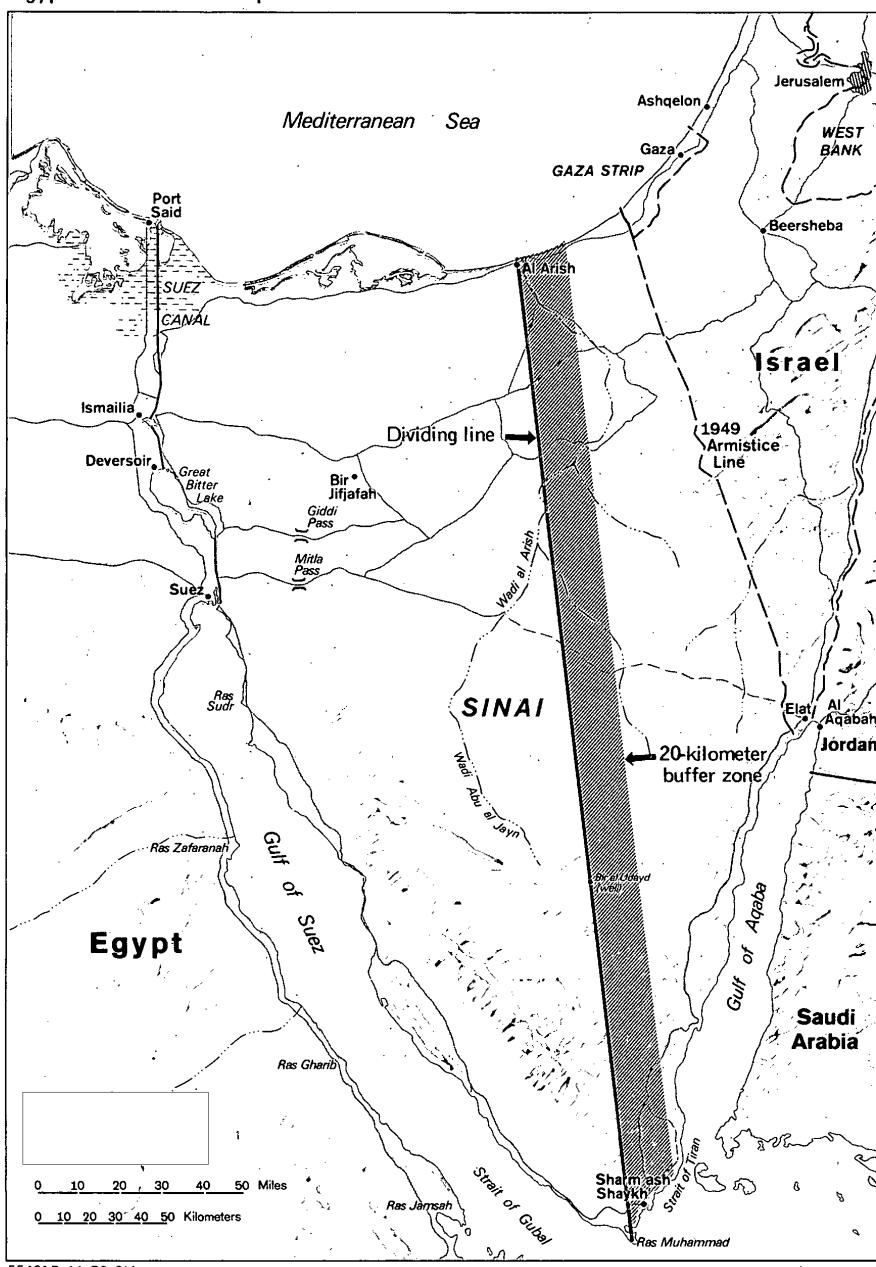
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Notes on political unrest in Athens, and on events in Cambodia and China appear on Page 6.

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Egyptian Withdrawal Proposal



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**ARAB STATES - ISRAEL**

Israeli and Egyptian representatives exchanged proposals regarding disengagement of forces during a meeting yesterday at Kilometer 101. General Yariv suggested a mutual withdrawal from the banks of the Suez Canal, leaving a ten-kilometer buffer zone on each side that would be patrolled by the UN Emergency Force. General Gamasy countered with an Egyptian proposal that would divide the Sinai Peninsula with a line running from Al Arish in the north to Ras Muhammad in the south. Israeli forces would withdraw 20 kilometers east of the line, and UNEF would patrol the buffer zone in between, including Sharm ash Shaykh. The Egyptians apparently added a detailed plan for thinning out forces of both sides along the buffer zone.

According to an Israeli spokesman, the two sides also discussed the POW exchange and resupply of Suez city and the Egyptian Third Army. They agreed to hold a formal meeting on November 22.

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[redacted] Syria is short of trained tank crews, but could launch heavy artillery shelling and local ground attacks on the Israeli salient in Golan.

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[redacted] the Syrian defense minister has asked Jordan to send a mechanized infantry brigade immediately to join other elements of the Jordanian Third Division on the southern flank of the Syrian front. It is not clear why the Syrians feel they need the mechanized brigade so urgently; they may be preparing to take some action of their own against Israeli forces.

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**USSR - ARAB STATES**

In a departure from previous financial arrangements for arms supply, the Arabs are paying cash for some of the aid Moscow has sent Egypt and Syria since the war began. Money from oil producing states has made this possible.

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[redacted] the Soviets will get cash for emergency supplies. Liberal Soviet credit arrangements, however, will apply to military aid under pre-war contracts.

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The total amount of hard currency the Arabs will pay is not known. Algeria reportedly has already forwarded \$200 million to the USSR. Other Arab countries have promised Egypt and Syria about \$2.5 billion to be used for war aid.

Arab willingness to pay cash reflects a desire to limit dependence on Moscow. For this same reason both Saudi Arabia and Libya were offering Cairo increased financial backing even before the war. For their part, the Soviets undoubtedly welcome hard currency, which not only will lessen the cost of supporting the Arabs but also will help offset the USSR's large balance-of-payments deficit this year.



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**FRANCE**

The French plan to add to their naval forces in the Mediterranean over the next several years. Early this month the head of the French Navy, Admiral de Joybert, said publicly that it is "imperative" for France to have two equally strong naval bases--one at Brest in the Atlantic and the other at Toulon in the Mediterranean. De Joybert revealed that France intends in 1975 to base at Toulon ships now stationed elsewhere. He also said that France's second nuclear-powered attack submarine squadron will operate out of Toulon in the early 1980s. The first will be stationed in Brest.

Before basing nuclear-powered submarines at Toulon, the French will have to construct a nuclear support facility there. This could also be used for ballistic missile submarines. De Joybert indicated last summer that French ballistic missile submarines would eventually operate in the Mediterranean.

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**FRANCE**

Recent statements by high-level civilian and military officials indicate that French nuclear doctrine is continuing to move from one based on immediate massive strategic retaliation to one with a number of levels of nuclear response. The French believe that each level has its own deterrent value and that a flexible doctrine will make France's strategic deterrence more credible to the Soviets.

In a wide-ranging discussion on the subject with a US official last week, Jacques Martin, a spokesman for the Armed Forces Ministry, affirmed that France's growing tactical nuclear inventory gives Paris the capability to use these weapons relatively early in a conflict--from the first to the third day. This would show France's determination to escalate the conflict if necessary to meet aggression. If the aggressor continued the attack, Martin said, the French "were prepared to escalate to the level of deep penetration nuclear attacks," probably limited initially to distant military targets.

Martin did not elaborate on whether he meant Eastern Europe or the western USSR, or what weapons systems would be employed. He also would not specify at what point French strategy called for targeting Soviet population centers.

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WEST GERMANY



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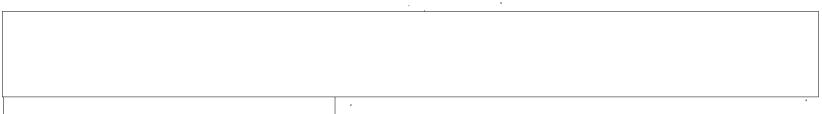


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NOTES

Greece: Security forces prevented further demonstrations in Athens yesterday and martial law remains in force. Several Communist leaders and other regime opponents have been arrested. President Papadopoulos has forbidden arrests of prominent non-Communist politicians, however, indicating that he remains reluctant to let the recent unrest frustrate efforts toward wider participation in parliamentary elections promised for sometime next year. The disturbances have, nonetheless, intensified army opposition to steps toward political normalization, and the President will have to take this into account. Papadopoulos has already ordered Prime Minister Markezinis to avoid public statements about elections, and has insisted they will not be held until order is fully restored.

Cambodia: Security around the President's quarters has been strengthened following the bombing yesterday of the presidential compound by a disaffected Cambodian Air Force pilot. There are no signs yet, however, that Lon Nol is preparing a widespread crackdown against suspected antigovernment elements as he did last March when the first such attack occurred. As was the case with the first incident, the attack yesterday apparently was an isolated act. The aircraft headed south after the attack and the pilot probably has sought refuge in a Khmer Communist - controlled area.

China: [redacted] that China has deployed a short-range ballistic missile to support theater-level forces in central China. [redacted] a launch unit for a 330-nautical mile surface-to-surface missile system at a field site near Mu-Chia-yen, some 30 nautical miles southeast of Hsi-an. The missile could strike only targets within China from this location. The Chinese have had a low-kiloton nuclear warhead compatible with such a missile since about 1966.

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